

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 /062 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5424

INFO DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

USCINCEUR VAININGEN GERMANY

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 1471

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS: DC DIRECTORATE URGES MORO TO
CONTINUE EFFORTS TO FORM GOVERNMENT BASED ON SURE
MAJORITY

REF: ROME 1364

1. DC DIRECTORATE MET THIS AFTERNOON TO EVALUATE POSSIBILITIES OF FORMING ONE-PARTY (MONICOLORE) DC GOVERNMENT. OPPOSITION WITHIN DC LEADERSHIP TO MONOCOLORE WITHOUT AGREED PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY BUILT RAPIDALY YESTERDAY AFTER ZACCAGNINI PLEDGED "FULL SUPPORT" FOR MORO'S EFFORTS TO FORM ALL-DC GOVERNMENT. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY EVENING BOTH ANDREOTTI AND FORLANI EXPRESSED HOSTILITY TO SUCH A MONOCOLORE SOLUTION AND STATED THEY EXPECTED DC DIRECTORATE TO REJECT IT.

2. DIRECTORATE MEETING JUST CONCLUDED UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED DOCUMENT WHOSE AIM IS TO PASS HOT POTATO OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAILURE TO SOLVE CRISI BACK TO
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SOCIALISTS. DIRECTORATE "REAFFIRMED THE NECESSITY FOR

THE SUPPORT OF THE (FOUR) PARTIES WHICH SUSTAINED THE (MORO-LA MALFA) GOVERNMENT ON AN UPDATED AND AGREED-IN-ADVANCE PROGRAM" TO DEAL WITH THE "RECENTLY AGGRAVATED" ECONOMIC SITUATION. DOCUMENT "INVITES" MORO TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES ARE "AVAILABLE" FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

3. DC SOURCES CLOSE TO CHAMBER GROUP PRESIDENT PICCOLI TOLD EMBOFF AFTER MEETING THAT MORO WILL NOW MAKE EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE MUTALLY ACCEPTABLE ECONOMIC PROGRAM WITH THE SOCIALISTS AND THE OTHER TWO PARTIES (REPUBLICANS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS) OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT MAJORITY. SOURCE PREDICTED THAT HE WILL FAIL AND THAT EARLY ELECTIONS ARE MOST LIKELY OUTCOME.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT IS ALWAYS A MISTAKE TO UNDER-ESTIMATE MORO'S CONSUMATE SKILL AS A CONCILIATOR, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE HE WILL SUCCEED AT THIS POINT IN EXTRACTING SOCIALIST AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT A COMPROMISE ECONOMIC PROGRAM. IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY THAT HE WILL FINALLY HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS FAILURE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT LEONE (AND THE DC) WILL THEN HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO ASK ANOTHER DC LEADER TO ATTEMPT TO FORM A GOVERNMENT OR SEND THE MORO-LA MALFA GOVERNMENT TO ALMOST SURE DEATH IN PARLIAMENT, FOLLOWED BY EARLY ELECTIONS. VOLPE

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